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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,505	03/16/2004	Sherif Safwat	2195CON2	3671

7590 03/21/2006
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EXAMINER

ARK, DARREN W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3643

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/802,505	Applicant(s) SAFWAT ET AL.	
	Examiner Darren W. Ark	Art Unit 3643	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters; prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 78-91 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 78-91 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 78, 79, 85, 86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Guthrie et al. 2,511,057.

Guthrie et al. discloses a trawl (see Fig. 1) with a plurality of mesh cells (see Figs. 1, 2); a first product strand (strands which slope upwardly from left to right with 10, 11); a second product strand (strands which slope upwardly right to left with 10, 11); a mechanical connection (knots 12) coupling the strands.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 80, 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guthrie et al. 2,511,057 in view of Haller 2,792,617.

Guthrie et al. does not disclose the first product strand being heat set. Haller discloses a process of heat setting thermoplastic net in rope form and product formed thereby wherein heat-setting is performed to prevent knot slippage and also prevent shrinkage due to washing with lime water. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the net of Guthrie et al. such that the first product strand is heat set in view of Haller in order to provide a net which is less susceptible to shrinkage during washing and which has knots that are less prone to slippage.

5. Claims 81-83, 88-90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guthrie et al. 2,511,057 in view of Keeton 4,710,407.

Guthrie et al. does not disclose the first product strand including a bonding agent. Keeton discloses a first product strand (of a fishing net) including a bonding agent (urethane resin) so that the resulting net is strong and is resistant to sun and water for a long time. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the net of Keeton such that the first product strand includes a bonding agent in view of Keeton in order to provide a strong net which is sun and water-resistant for a long period of time.

6. Claims 84, 91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guthrie et al. 2,511,057 in view of Brocker 1,552,269.

Guthrie et al. does not disclose the mechanical connection comprising a clamp. Brocker discloses the use of clamps (3, 4) to unite the threads of nets so that knots need not be formed and also for connecting thick threads which are not suitable for

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being knotted. It would have been an obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to substitute the clamps of Brocker for the knotted connection of Guthrie et al. in order to provide means for uniting the mesh bars of the net which can accommodate large diameter or thick strands.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Japanese Pat. No. 1-321957 to Koyama et al. discloses a fishnet wherein monofilaments are netted and the resulting net is heat-set under tension to effect fusing of knotted parts.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Darren W. Ark whose telephone number is (571) 272-6885. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 8:00am-6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Darren W. Ark
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643

DWA